

Message Text

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44

ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 ARA-10 EUR-10 NSC-10 L-03 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1553

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 9012

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, ILO

SUBJ: ELECTION OF DIRECTOR GENERAL OF INTERNATIONAL LABOR OFFICE

REF: LONDON 12091

1. WITH REFERENCE TO PARAS 1 AND 5 REFTEL, ANDRES AGUILAR, WHO WAS AT ONE TIME VENEZUELAN REPRESENTATIVE TO UN, IS CURRENTLY VENEZUELAN AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON. HE WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT CANDIDATE FOR DIRECTORSHIP OF ILO BECAUSE OF HIS NATIVE INTELLIGENCE AND EQUILIBRIUM AND ALSO BECAUSE HE SPEAKS FLUENT ENGLISH AND PRESUMABLY FRENCH. HIS WIFE IS CANADIAN.

2. CALDERA, OF COURSE, IS ONE OF THE MOST EMINENT POLITICIANS IN LATIN AMERICA. HE IS HEAD AND SHOULDERS ABOVE EITHER OF THE AGUILARS, (THE OTHER, PEDRO PABLO, IS SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE COPEI PARTY). HOWEVER, IT IS FAIRLY CLEAR FROM THE RECORD OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS THAT HE HAS TRENDED TOWARD A DEFINITE ANTI-US VIEW. FURTHERMORE, AFTER HIS RECENT MUCH-PUBLICIZED SWING AROUND SOUTH AMERICA, HE SINCERELY SEES HIMSELF AS A LEADER OF THE SOUTHERN CONTINENT AND IS GIVEN TO SOMEWHAT MUTHOLOGICAL EXPRESSIONS SUCH AS "INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL JUSTICE" AND "THE SOLIDARITY OF PLURALISM."

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IN MY OPINION IF ELECTED TO THE DIRECTORSHIP OF ILO HE WOULD USE

THIS AS A SPRING BOARD TO HIGHER OFFICE (E.G. SECRETARY OF THE UN)
OR AS A WIDELY PUBLICIZED POST FOR AN EVENTUAL RETURN TO THE
PRESIDENCY OF VENEZUELA, FROM WHICH HE IS STOPPED BY THE
CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISION THAT NO PRESIDENT HERE MAY SUCCEED
HIMSELF BEFORE AN INTERVAL OF TEN YEARS.

3. IN CONSEQUENCE, DESPITE THE UNDOUBTED TALENTS OF CALDERA
INCLUDING HIS MULTILINGUAL CAPACITY, IT IS MY JUDGMENT THAT HE
WOULD NOT BE A USEFUL DIRECTOR OF ILO FROM THE POINT OF VIEW
OF VIEW OF US INTERESTS. IT IS TRUE, HOWEVER, WITH HIS BACKGROUND
AS A LABOR LAWYER AND HIS BRILLIANT INTELLIGENCE THAT HE WOULD
BE A GOOD DIRECTOR OF ILO -- WERE IT NOT FOR US INTERESTS.
MCCLINTOCK

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